

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-18 are pending in the application after this amendment cancels claim 2. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 have been amended. The amendments do not add new matter.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner acknowledges that claims 4-6 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 4 has been amended into independent form including the limitations of claims 1 and 3. Therefore claim 4 is in condition for allowance. Claims 5 and 6 depend from allowable claim 4, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, and 7-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,507,232 to Matsui (hereinafter Matsui) (claim 2 having been canceled). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 2. Claim 1 relates to a semiconductor integrated circuit device that includes, *inter alia*, a terminal and a first capacitance adjusting section which is connected to a wiring between said terminal and a protection resistor in a front stage of an internal circuit. Amended claim 1 includes a protection circuit which is connected to said wiring between said terminal and said first capacitance adjusting section and protects said internal circuit.

The Office Action asserts that Matsui discloses the feature of the protection circuit in figure 4. The Office Action also asserts that element 100 in Matsui discloses a terminal, element 103 discloses a first capacitance adjusting section, element 101 discloses a protection resistor, and element 111 discloses an internal circuit. (Office

Action; page 2, lines 18-21). Figure 4 of Matsui apparently discloses these numbered elements, but does not show any distinct protection circuit, nor more particularly, a protection circuit connected to the wiring between the terminal and the first capacitance adjusting section. Applicants respectfully request a citation to the reference, or an element in a figure of the reference, disclosing a protection circuit, or alternatively that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 7 is amended to depend from claim 1, and therefore claims 7-14 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 3 has been amended to include the features of base claim 1. Amended claim 3 relates to a semiconductor integrated circuit device that includes, *inter alia*, a terminal and a first capacitance adjusting section which is connected to a wiring between said terminal and a protection resistor in a front stage of an internal circuit. In amended claim 3, a first adjusting capacitor includes a first semiconductive portion which is composed of *a first well region formed in a substrate with said internal circuit and having a conductive type opposite to that of said substrate*, and a second semiconductive portion which is opposite to said first semiconductive portion and is composed of *a first diffusion layer region formed in said first well region and having the same conductive type as that of said substrate*.

Matsui does not disclose first and second semiconductive portions as recited in claim 3. The Office Action asserts that Matsui discloses this feature in figure 4 and at column 7, line 62 to column 8, line 39. (Office Action; page 4, lines 4-9). However,

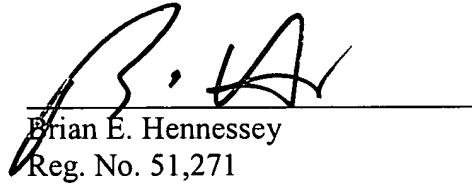
figure 4 of Matsui does not disclose a first semiconductive portion having a first well region formed in a substrate with said internal circuit and having a conductive type opposite to that of said substrate. Nor does Matsui disclose a second semiconductive portion which is opposite to said first semiconductive portion and is composed of a first diffusion layer region formed in said first well region and having the same conductive type as that of said substrate. Applicants respectfully request a citation to the reference, or an element in a figure of the reference, disclosing the first and second semiconductive portions, as recited in claim 3, or alternatively that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 15-18 ultimately depend from claim 3 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 3 is allowable.

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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